BATMAN

"THE SILENT FILM CAPERS"

by

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SECOND DRAFT: Dec. 28, 1965

"THE SILENT FILM CAPERS"

FADE IN:

INT. THEATER - NIGHT - ANGLE ON SCREEN

On the screen is a silent film, featuring the antics of the Keystone Kops. WE HEAR SOUNDS OF AUDIENCE LAUGHTER as the film reaches a climax and then ends.

INT. LOBBY OF THEATER - NIGHT

An usher and a tuxedoed MANAGER open the doors to lobby, as the SOUND OF APPLAUSE comes from inside the theater. Then the crowd starts coming out. They all wear formal attire and carry programs. They mill around the lobby, chatting and laughing.

ANGLE ON MANAGER

Near one of doors as a portly gentleman, MR. VAN JONES, comes out.

MANAGER
Goodevening, Mr. Van Jones.

VAN JONES
Yes, very good, very good.

MANAGER
Mr. Van Jones, on behalf of the festival committee, I want to thank you for loaning us these rare films.

VAN JONES
My pleasure, my pleasure - always delighted to do my bit for chairity.

ANGLE ACROSS LOBBY

A character dressed as THE TRAMP waddles across the lobby, twirling his cane and twitching his moustace. He wears baggy pants, a tight coat, long shoes and a small derby hat. The crowd in lobby steps aside and laughs as he passes them. He walks up to the staircase, where a young GIRL - dressed as Clara Bow - stands holding a bouquet of posies. The Tramp lifts his hat and the Girl coyly blushes, then gives him the flowers. The Tramp lifts his derby again, then offers his arm. The Girl shyly takes his arm and the Tramp struts as they walk down the steps. Then suddenly A POLICE WHISTLE IS HEARD AS THREE KEYSTONE KOPS RUSH into lobby and begin to chase the little Tramp.

VARIED ANGLES OF CROWD

As the Kops chase the little Tramp all over the lobby, waving their nightsticks. The Tramp still holds the Girls bouquet of posies.

REACTION SHOTS

The crowd [redacted] watching the chase, smiling.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The little Tramp eludes the Kops, ducks into the door leading to Box Office. The Kops run past door, search crowd for their prey.

INT. BOX-OFFICE - NIGHT

The Little Tramp turns from door, sees CASHIER, shrugs shoulders and lifts his hat. The Cashier grins.

CASHIER
Where'd you come from?

The Tramp grins, shrugs again and tips his derby.

CASHIER
Well, I'm afraid you're not allowed in here.

The Tramp looks sqd, frowns, then offers the bouquet of flowers as a peace offering. The Cashier smiles again.

CASHIER
Sorry, it's against the.....

The little Tramp squeezes the bottom of bouqet and a thick gas streams into the Cashier's face. He coughs once, then slumps over in a deep sleep. The Little Tramp begins scooping up cash from counter and empties the cash drawer into a black suitcase.

INT. THE LOBBY - NIGHT

The Keystone Kops are still running wildly through the crowd. Now they spot the Clara Bow girl, approach her and pantomime asking her where the Tramp is. She shakes her head and spreads her arms wide in innocence, but the Kops take her by the arm and lead her toward the front doors.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Tramp peeks out from box-office door, sees the Kops arresting the girl, comes out quickly and bravely walks over to give himself up. He bows to the girl, surrenders to the policemen and, still carrying the suitcase, is led outside by the Keystone Kops, the girl adoringly on his arm.

ANGLE ON CROWD

As they applaud heartily at the "live" vignette. The Manager is applauding, but Mr. Van Jones is frowning.

MANAGER
Oh, that was clever, clever - your idea, Mr. Van Jones?

VAN JONES
Certainly not.

MANAGER
Well, then, the committee must have arranged it.

VAN JONES
Indeed. My good man, I have spent a considerable fortune collecting rare prints of old movies. I hardly appreciate an amatuer group taking the attention away from them.

MANAGER
Well, now, I'm certain the committee thought....

VAN JONES
(interupts)
Thought very little of my films, I'd say. Goodevening, sir.

Van Jones leaves in a huff. The Manager shrugs, then crosses the lobby to the Box Office, smiling once again as the crowd leaves.

INT. BOX OFFICE - NIGHT

CLOSE ON MANAGER as he enters, then looks horrified as he sees the fallen cashier.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Manager bends over the fallen man, then checks the empty cash drawer. Then he picks up the phone and dials operator.

MANAGER
(into phone)
Get me the police! Quickly!!

He notices a slip of paper on counter, picks it up, looks at it.

MANAGER
What's this?
(puzzled)
A riddle!!

FLIP SCREEN TO:

INT. COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

GORDON is seated at his desk, CHIEF O'HARA stands beside him. Several other uniformed OFFICERS crowd around the desk as Gordon examines the note, then looks up gravely.

GORDON
The Riddler!!

O'HARA
There's no doubt about it! The Prince of Puzzlers is back in our midst!!

GORDON
This calls for action!

O'HARA
Right!

GORDON
Hand me the Batphone!!

O'Hara reaches for the phone as we:

FLIP SCREEN TO:

INT. WAYNE MANOR - NIGHT (THE STUDY)

BRUCE WAYNE and DICK GRAYSON are seated at a chess board, both concentrating. Dick starts to make a move, then hesitates.

DICK
Golly, I don't know about that move.

BRUCE
Take your time, lad. Chess is a game of concentration - and careful deliberation.

ALFRED, the butler, enters, carrying a silver tray and cups and a pitcher.

ALFRED
Would you care for some hot chocolate, sir?

BRUCE
Excellant, Alfred - excellant.

Alfred puts the tray down, prepares to pour as THE BATPHONE RINGS. Bruce looks up quickly.

BRUCE
The Batphone!

ALFRED
Shall I get it, sir?

BRUCE
Never mind.

Bruce stands, crosses quickly to desk and picks up the reciever.

BRUCE
Yes, Commissioner? Oh? Read it to me!
(listens, frowns)
I see! Of course! We'll be right there!!

Bruce hangs up as Dick crosses toward him, ready for action.

DICK
What now?

BRUCE
"Why is a musicians bandstand [redacted] AS HOT AS an oven?"

DICK
A riddle?

BRUCE
(nods grimly)
The Riddler is back in action!

DICK
Then we....

BRUCE
Can waste no time! To the Batpoles!!!

They dash for the secret door.

STANDARD OPENING FOOTAGE

MAIN TITLES

FADE OUT.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

* * * * *

FADE IN:

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - NIGHT -CLOSE ON BATMAN

As he reads the riddle.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Only Gordon, O'Hara, Robin and Batman are in the office now. Batman looks up.

BATMAN
And you say the manager found this riddle at the scene of the crime?

GORDON
Yes.

O'HARA
"Why is a musicians bandstand as hot as an oven"? I can't figure it out - unless the Riddler plans to rob a place that has music.

BATMAN
What do you make of it, Robin?

ROBIN
Well, it kind of had me stumped at first - till I started thinking about musicians - and the kind of slang they use.

GORDON
What do you mean, Boy Wonder?

ROBIN
Why is a musicians bandstand as hot as an oven? Because that's where he makes his bread.

BATMAN
That's it. Bread...oven...

ROBIN
A bakery.

O'HARA
A bakery? Isn't that a far=fetched guess?

BATMAN
The Riddler never leaves simple clues, Chief. I think Robin is right.

GORDON
But what could he steal from a bakery?

BATMAN
A very tasty roll, Commissioner = a pay roll!

ROBIN
Golly, sure - he's after the Gotham Bakery payroll.

Batman motions for Robin.

BATMAN
Let's go!!

They both dash for the door as we:

FLIP SCREEN TO:

INT. LARGE BAKERY - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING SHOTS

POSSIBLE STOCK SHOTS of the interior of a large bakery. Shots of the huge ovens, the many workmen.

ANGLE ON SIDE DOOR

A BAKER is carrying a tray of rolls past the door as he HEARS A RAPPING ON THE DOOR. He hesitates, THE RAPPING CONTINUES. The Baker then puts down his tray, goes to door and unlatches it, opens the door. We see THE GIRL who was Clara Bow at theater, now she wears a shawl around her head, wears tattered clothing. She shivvers in the cold air.

GIRL
Oh, please, sir - please. You must help me!

BAKER
(surprised)
Help you?

GIRL
I must have bread to save my starving Mother!

BAKER
We don't sell bread back here.

GIRL
It matters not. For I have no money with which to buy! And so I must beg! Charity, kind sir - charity!!

BAKER
Welll....

GIRL
I've had to sell all that I've owned. All,that is, but this tattered shawl. Take it, if you must.

She starts to remove shawl.

BAKER
No, no.....

GIRL
But I insist!!

She flips the shawl from over her head and it completely covers the head of the Baker. Then she pulls a cord attached to shawl and the edges of shawl tighten, pinning the Bakers arms to his side.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As TWO MEN, dressed in white suits and wearing large, handlebar moustaces enter quickly, grab the Baker and whisk him out the door. Then enters THE RIDDLER - also dressed in white suit and wearing handlebar moustace. He looks down the hallway, then turns toward open door and waves his men to come in. THREE MEN in white suits and handlebar moustaces enter, wheeling a three-decker cart laden with cream pies. The Girl steps aside, then exits through the door as the Riddler motions the men to wheel cart after him as he proceeds down the hall.

ANGLE DOWN HALLWAY

The long hallway leads to a glass door, behind which are the payroll offices. Standing outside the glass door is a company GUARD. The Riddler walks toward the guard, followed by his men wheeling the pie cart.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Guard steps forward as the Riddler approaches.

GUARD
Hold it!!

RIDDLER
What's wrong?

GUARD
You can't come in here!

RIDDLER
Why not? We have pies to deliver!

GUARD
You take those pies down to shipping!
That's at the other end of the plant!

The Riddler picks up a pie from the tray.

RIDDLER
Ah, but these are special pies! Whipped sleeping gas and nuts!!

GUARD
Huh?

RIDDLER
Try one!!

The Riddler flings the pie in the Guards face. The Guard staggers and then falls, fast asleep. The Riddler motions his men forward.

INT. PAYROLL OFFICES - NIGHT

The Riddler comes through glass door, holds it open as his "piemen" wheel the cart in. Then the Riddler and each of his men take two pies and walk toward office.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT
TWO
~~THREE~~ CLERKS look up, surprised, as the Riddler enters and flings pies into their faces. Both men fall, then the Riddler takes off his jacket, revealing his green, question-marked costume. He moves to the payroll safe and begins emptying it as his men stand guard at the door with their pies.

ANOTHER ANGLE

An unsuspecting GUARD walks toward the office - SPLAT - one of the men let him have a pie.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Riddler picks up case full of money, leads his men out of offices to hallway.

RIDDLER
Quickly, now ! To the truck!!

His men go out the door as Riddler turns, looks up toward boxes and smiles.

RIDDLER
Anytime you're ready, C.B.?

ANGLE ON BOXES

One of the Riddler's men is atop the boxes, cranking an old time movie camera on a tripod. He closes tripod and lifts Camera.

MAN
I got everything, Boss!

RIDDLER
Join the others, then. I shall be along as soon as I decorate the place a bit.

The Riddler giggles and takes a cake decorater spray tube from his tunic, shakes it, then begins writing on the wall.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE ALLEY - NIGHT

The Girl is sitting behind the wheel of large bakery truck. The Cemeraman is climbing into the back.

CLOS E ON GIRL

She nervously looks at her watch, then toward bakery door.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Riddler comes out and climbs in front seat of truck, beside the girl.

INT. CAB OF TRUCK - NIGHT

The Riddler turns and knocks on window behind cab.

RIDDLER
Get your camera set up, C.B. Our stars should arrive any moment now!!

GIRL
Don't you think we should get out of here?

RIDDLER
We'll pull out as they arrive. All I want is one good shot of.....
(looks up alley)
Ahhhhhhh.

ANGLE UP ALLEY

The Batmobile swings into alley and drives down toward Bakery.

ANGLE ON RIDDLER

He laughs, turns.

RIDDLER
Action, C.B. - ACTION!!
(nods to girl)
All right, darling - let's go!

EXT. THE ALLEY

The Truck pulls away as the Batmobile passes it, pulls up to door and Batman and Robin get out of Batmobile.

ROBIN
Looks like business as usual, Batman.

BATMAN
Let's take a look inside!

They rush across alley to door, step inside.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Batman and Robin come in, find the fallen guard. Batman kneel beside him, Batman touches the pie whipping on his face, then smells it.

BATMAN
Sleeping gas!

ROBIN
We're too late!

Batman notices the writing on wall.

BATMAN
Look!

ANOTHER ANGLE

They walk over to wall, on which is written: BATMAN - AS ONE BAKER TO ANOTHER, HOW DO YOU MAKE A DIS-HONEST SHORTCAKE?

BATMAN
(reads)
"Batman - as one baker to another, how do you make a dishonest shortcake?"

ROBIN
A dis-honest shortcake?

BATMAN
Let's see...there's strawberry short-cake.

ROBIN
...and Blueberry shortcake..

BATMAN
(pondering)
..a dis-honest shortcake...

ROBIN
(snaps fingers)
I've got it! A LIE - BERRY! That would make a dis-honest shortcake!!

BATMAN
That's it - lie berry - library.
(reads again)
As one Baker to another..

ROBIN
There's an all-night lending library on Baker Street.

BATMAN
Let's go!!

They dash for the door.

FLIP SCREEN TO:

INT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT

The place is small, but cluttered with old books. A kindly, white-haired lady LIBRARIAN is putting away books. She turns as WE HEAR THE TINKLE OF A BELL AS DOOR OPENS.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Dynamic Duo comes into the bookstore. The Librarian smiles sweetly at them.

LIBRARIAN
Yes? May I help you?

BATMAN
Perhaps. Have their been any suspicious looking characters around here this evening?

LIBRARIAN
This evening? Why...no. I just have a few people drop in from time to time - like yourselves.

ROBIN
I wonder why he sent us here?

LIBRARIAN
Someone sent you? How nice. But..haven't you been in here before?

BATMAN
No, Ma'am.

LIBRARIAN
That's strange - I have a feeling I've seen you somewhere before. Of course, it is hard to tell - you both weraing masks and all.

ROBIN
What now, Batman?

LIBRARIAN
Batman? Of course - that's why I thought I knew you - you were described to me.

BATMAN
When?

LIBRARIAN
Earlier this evening - your friend said you'd be in to pick up a book.

BATMAN
What friend?

She turns and takes a large book from one of the shelves.

LIBRARIAN
I have it right here.
(hands it to him)
Here you are...

Batman looks at the book.

BATMAN
(reads)
"A Pictoral history of Silent Movies"

LIBRARIAN
And I believe your friend put a note inside - just for you.

Batman flips the pages, comes to note, takes it out.

BATMAN
More riddles.

LIBRARIAN
Riddles? Do you like Riddles? We have wonderful books full of riddles.

ROBIN
Thank you, Ma'am - but we have all we can handle right now!!

BATMAN
How much do we owe you for the book?

LIBRARIAN
Oh, your friend paid for it - he said you worked for the City and couldn't afford many luxeries.

Batman sighs, turns to Robin.

BATMAN
Let's go!

They both dash for the door and exit as the little old lady smiles sweetly after them.

LIBRARIAN
(to herself)
So eager for knowledge..

FLIP SCREEN TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT - ANGLE ON SCREEN

On the screen, in black and white, Batman and Robin are getting out of Batmobile at Bakery and crossing alley to bakery door. Then frame stops, we see reverse action as they walk backwards, the forwards again.

ANOTHER ANGLE

To show the Riddler seated beside a projector, running the shot of Batman backwards and forwards, laughing loudly. The Girl and the gang are seated around projector. Then the Riddler snaps off the machine and snaps on the lights.

RIDDLER
Oh, that's a wonderful shot, wonderful, wonderful! But if I could only have seen their faces when they found my note! Close-ups! Of Batman and Robin! That's what our film lacks, gentlemen! C.B. - make a note of that for our next production!! Close-ups of Batman and Robin!!

MAN
(shrugs)
Okay, Boss - only they ain't exactly gonna pose for us.

RIDDLER
No? Observe!!

The Riddler snaps off the lights and begins running the film again.

ANGLE ON SCREEN

As Batman and Robin are seen running forwards and backwards again.

CLOSE SHOT - THE RIDDLER

As the light from the screen flickers over his laughing face.

RIDDLER
You see? On film I can make them run backwards and forwards - and before I'm finished I'll have them running in circles!!

He throws back his head and laughs again as we:

FADE OUT.

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FADE IN:

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

THE CAMERA PANS OVER the elaborate Cave. We find Batman, sitting at desk, leafing through the book. The elevator doors open and Alfred enters Batcave, carrying a tea tray.

ALFRED
I thought you might like some tea, sir. It's almost morning.

BATMAN
Oh, yes - thank you, Alfred.

The Batman sits back and stretches as Alfred pours the tea.

ALFRED
Have you been reading all night, sir?

BATMAN
Yes, studying this book - trying to figure out the Riddler's next job.

ALFRED
I see. Then you expect that putrid puzzler to continue his silent movie routines?

BATMAN
I do.

ALFRED
It seems a bit much, sir.

BATMAN
It's the Riddler's nature, Alfred. The more bizarre his method of law-breaking, the more attention he attracts....

ALFRED
(nods)
And the more attention he attracts...

BATMAN
The more he thinks it makes Robin and myself look stupid.

ALFRED
The fool. I'm confident you and Master Robin will put an end to his movie career, sir.

BATMAN
Thank you, Alfred. Is Robin still upstairs?

ALFRED
Yes, sir - in the kitchen. He must be quite famished, I'd say.

BATMAN
(grins)
I doubt if he's eating. He's working on our latest riddle.

ALFRED
In the kitchen, sir?

Batman picks up note from book.

BATMAN
We found this note in the book.
(reads)
"What do you find in the kitchen that's not alive?"

ALFRED
(ponders)
...in the kitchen that's not alive. Why.. nothing's alive, sir?

BATMAN
That's what makes the riddle hard. And there's another one. "When is a new car considered to be seedy?"

ALFRED
Dear me, sir - I'm afraid I'm no good at solving riddles at all.

BATMAN
Well, Robin has a good batting averagge. Let's hope he.....

The elevator doors open and Robin enters Batcave, carrying a pad of paper.

ROBIN
Golly, I'm bushed. I made a list of everything I could find in a kitchen. I never knew there were so many things.

BATMAN
And have you reached a solution to the riddle?

ROBIN
Not quite. What do you find in the kitchen that's not alive?

BATMAN
Well, obviously if it's not alive, it must be dead.

ROBIN
I've gone down the list with that in mind.
(reads)
Dead flour, dead sugar, dead salt, dead pepper, dead knives, dead forks, dead pots, dead pans, dead skillets, dead...

BATMAN
Hold it, whoa, whoa...back up.

ROBIN

Huh?

BATMAN

You're expecting to find something that makes sense - but it can only make sense if you apply it to the Riddlers currant subject..

ROBIN

Silent movies.

BATMAN

Exactly. Now go back about three items.

ROBIN

(reads)

..dead pots, dead pans...

BATMAN

Singular.

ROBIN

Dead pan! An expression! A dead-pan expression!!

BATMAN

That's it!

ROBIN

You knew it all the time.

Batman picks up book, opens it to certain page.

BATMAN

Not all the time. But while you studied the kitchen, I studied this book - and as soon as I came across this dead-pan comedian, I related it to the riddle.

Shows Robin picture of Buster Keaton (if this permissable)

ROBIN

So! The Riddler plans to play his next crime strictly dead-pan.

BATMAN

Now the question is where that crime will occur. The other riddle....

ROBIN

Oh, that one's easy. When is a new car considered to be seedy? When it's a lemon!!

BATMAN
Good lad!

ROBIN
Only what the heck does it mean?

BATMAN
Lemon, lemon...

ALFRED
Begging your pardon..but perhaps the scoundrel plans to rob a lemonade stand? In front of a used car lot.

BATMAN
Lemonade - of course!!

ALFRED
Oh, dear me - I was only joking.

BATMAN
But you hit the nail on the head.General Royce, the automobile manufactuer, is giving a swank party this very evening. Bruce Wayne recieved an invitation several days ago!

ROBIN
But..what's that got to do with lemonade?

BATMAN
The General happens to be a temperance leader. And at all his parties the guests drink nothing but lemonade!

ALFRED
And you believe the Riddler will be there?

BATMAN
I do.

ROBIN
And so will Batman - and Robin!

BATMAN
Not so fast! That presents a problem. The invitation was sent to Bruce Wayne - and if he doesn't show up - and Batman does - it could arouse suspicion.

ROBIN
You're right.

Batman stands, moves to shelf and takes down object the size of small cigarette case.

BATMAN
No, I'd best attend as Bruce Wayne. But I'll take along our Micro-TV camera!

CLOSE SHOT - SMALL CASE

A tiny lens can be seen on end of the small case.

BACK TO SCENE

ROBIN
And I can monitor it from the Batmobile!

BATMAN
Exactly! We'll both be observing the party and we can spot any trouble quickly!!

FLIP SCREEN TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

The Riddler stands in front of chemistry table, mixing a bubbly potion. The Girl comes up beside him.

GIRL
What's that?

RIDDLER
A little something for the Generals party tonight, my dear. Most of the bugs of society will be crawling there tonight and so this is my remedy for angry insects.

GIRL
Angry insects? What's an angry insect?

RIDDLER
Ants with a temper! Or..temperance!

He throws back his head and laughs loudly as he mixes more tonic.

FLIP SCREEN TO:

INT. HOTEL RECEPTION ROOM - NIGHT - PANNING SHOT

The room is crowded with dignitaries. The MAYOR is talking to the stern looking GENERAL ROYCE and his stout WIFE, Commissioner Gordon is chatting with Chief O'Hara. We see a tuxedoed Bruce Wayne enter the crowded room.

CLOSE ON BRUCE

He nods to a few people, then makes his way to corner table, takes out Micro-Tv case, flips open lens and casually places the camera on edge of table.

EXT. THE BATMOBILE - NIGHT

Robin sits in Batmbbile parked beside hotel. He is adjusting Tv screen. He grins as the image of the party upstairs comes into focus.

INT. HOTEL RECEPTION ROOM - NIGHT

Bruce moves away from the table, mingles with crowd, looking around for the dead-pan Riddler.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Bruce bumps into Mr. Van Jones.

BRUCE
Ooppsl Sorry, Van Jones.

VAN JONES
You should be. Oh, hello, Wayne.

BRUCE
Enjoying the party?

VAN JONES
I never enjoy parties. I'd prefer to be home in my projection room running my silent movies.
(shudders)
All this noise...

Van Jones walks away. Bruce makes his way over to where Commissioner Gordon stands with Chief O'Hara.

BRUCE
Good evening, Commissioner - Chief O'Hara.

O'HARA
Hello there, Wayne..

GORDON
(nods)
Bruce.

BRUCE
Quite a crowd here tonight. How's the lemonade?

GORDON
Sweet.

O'Hara
~~Yxryxxxxxxx~~ Sour.

They look at one another.

GORDON
The lemonade is exceptionally sweet this evening.

O'HARA
(firm)
I say it's sour.

GORDON
Something must be wrong with your taste buds.

O'HARA
My taste buds? What about yours??

Bruce is surprised at this belligerant attitude between the two friends.

BRUCE
Gentlemen, Gentlemen....

O'HARA
Well....

BRUCE
I..uh..I think I'll pay my respects to the General.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Bruce walks away, frowning, still concerned about the argument. He approaches the General and his Wife, who wears a huge, diamond necklace.

BRUCE
Goodevening General, Mrs. Royce.

WIFE
Hello, my dear boy, hello.

GENERAL
Glad you could come, Wayne.

BRUCE
My pleasure, General.

GENERAL
It's rewarding to have a fine turn-out like this. It just goes to prove my point.

BRUCE
Oh?

GENERAL
One needn't serve intoxicants to have a successful party.

BRUCE
Well, I think our teen-agers have proved that.

GENERAL
It's true. If it's anything I can't stand it's a cocktail party - they serve hard liquor and the guests get rowdy, belligerant - pretty soon there's a fight - they're a disgrace, a disgrace.

WIFE
Oh, I don't know. I've been to a few I've enjoyed.

GENERAL
(snaps)
That's enough, Martha.

WIFE
Well, I have.

GENERAL
I said that was enough!

BRUCE
Uh...that's a beautiful necklace, Mrs. Royce.

GENERAL
It should be. It cost me over a hundred thousand.

WIFE
Don't you think I'm worth a hundred thousand?

GENERAL
Sometimes I wonder!

WIFE
Oh, you do? Well, who else would put up with you and nothing but lemonade??

BRUCE
Uh...excuse me, I see a friend.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Bruce walks away from General, makes his way through the crowd, most of them talking heatedly. Bruce ducks into a phone closet.

INT. PHONE CLOSET - NIGHT

Bruce doesn't pick up phone, instead takes pen microphone from pocket.

BRUCE
Robin?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. BATMOBILE - NIGHT

Robin picks up mike from dash.

ROBIN
Yes, sir.

BRUCE
Something stragge is going on here. I've never heard General and Mrs. Royce quarrel - and the Commissioner and the Police Chief were snarling at each other..in fact, every one in the room seems on edge.

ROBIN
Have you spotted the Riddler?

BRUCE
Not yet, it's quite crowded. But stand by - I'll call you as soon as I do.

ROBIN
Right.

EXT. BATMOBILE - NIGHT

We see Robin put the mike back, then he is startled as the GIRL - this time dressed a Bo-Peep type heroine - rap on the window of the Batmobile. Robin jumps out of the ~~xxrx~~ Batmobile.

GIRL
Oh, please, sir - please! Help me!

ROBIN
Help you?

GIRL
Two men down the street! They grabbed my little brother and they threatened to hurt him - unless I deliver a message to you.

ROBIN
What message??

GIRL
"When is a bonnett not a bonnett?"

ROBIN
A riddle! The Riddler!! Where are these men?

GIRL
I'll show you!

She leads the way down the side street, Robin alongside her.

EXT. CORNER OF ALLEY - NIGHT

Robin and the girl stop at the corner.

GIRL
They're gone!!

ROBIN
So it seems. What was that riddle again?

GIRL
When is a bonnet not a bonnet?

ROBIN
(thinking)
When is a bonnet not.....

GIRL
(quickly)
I have it!!

She removes her bo-peep bonnet, lets her long hair fall loosely around her shoulders. She smiles at Robin warmly.

GIRL
(purrs)
When it <u>becomes</u> a young woman.

Robin stares at the girl, suddenly suspicious.

ROBIN
What is this?

The Girl, still smiling seductively, takes a compact from her pocket, opens it and admires her face in the mirror.

GIRL
What's the matter, Robin? Don't you find me attractive?

ROBIN
Yes, but I.....

She suddenly blows hard, sending a spray of powder from the compact and into the Boy Wonders face. He coughs and staggers back, groggy, as two of the Riddlers henchmen rush out of the alley and grab his arms.

HENCHMAN #1
He's out cold! That's pretty potent powder!

GIRL
This? It's nothing for the Riddler - you should taste the concoction he mixed for that lemonade party.
(smiles)
He calls it temper tonic!

CUT TO:

INT. RECEPTION ROOM - NIGHT

Bruce Wayne wanders through the crowd, noticing the bickering attitude of most of the guests. A WAITER approaches, carrying a tray full of lemonade filled glasses.

WAITER
Lemonade, sir?

BRUCE
Uh...not right now. I'm looking for someone.

Bruce walks on into crowd, the Waiter quickly disposes of his glasses to the guests, then WE FOLLOW him as he walks to serving table, puts down the empty tray and picks up another full tray. Another waiter, wearing a pork-pie hat, has his back to us as the other waiter moves away. Now he turns and we see it is the Riddler - his face made up to look like Keaton - dead-pan. He takes a tray of empty glasses and places them next to a pitcher of lemonaide.

CLOSE SHOT - THE DEAD PAN RIDDLER

He looks left and right, without expression, then he takes a small bottle from breast pocket, pours a few drops from bottle into pitcher, puts bottle back in pocket, then pours lemonade into glasses.

ANGLE ON BRUCE WAYNE

As he circulates in the crowd. He glances at two men near him.

FIRST MAN
It was not, it was the Dodgers!!

SECOND MAN
Dodgers my eye! It was the Gotham Greats in seven games!

FIRST MAN
Yer out'a yer mind!

SECOND MAN
You callin' me a nut?

FIRST MAN
That's right! You're a nut!!

Bruce shakes his head and walks on, past two women.

WOMAN #1
I simply said your dress was a very popular style - two years ago!

WOMAN #2
I hardly think you're the one to talk about style, dear - tell me, are you still wearing that rabbit stole?

Bruce looks concerned, walks up to MAYOR.

BRUCE
Goodevening, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR
(snarls)
What;s so good about it?

BRUCE
Well...

MAYOR
That's the trouble with you rich young fellows - everything's nice and rosy.

BRUCE
Now, look, Mr. Mayor....

MAYOR
Just because I'm Mayor doesn't mean I have to be pushed around by you wealthy young punks! And don't you forget it!!

The Mayor storms away. Bruce looks startled.

ANGLE ON DEAD-PAN RIDDLER

AS he carries tray of lem@nade glasses through the crowd. He passes all but one to guests, then he walks up to the two men who were arguing earlier. He pantomimes giving the last glass to one, then he withdraws it and offers it to the other.

FIRST MAN
Hey, I want that!

Dead-pan offers it again to first man.

SECOND MAN
He was giving it to me!

FIRST MAN
It's mine!

SECOND MAN
Mine!

FIRST MAN
Mine!

Dead-pan is moving the glass back and forth between them as they shout, now he shrugs, and tosses the contents of glass in the First Man's face. The First man roars at the second.

FIRST MAN
Now see what you did?

The First man throws a punch at the Second man, who swings back and a fight is on.

ANGLE ON BRUCE

He turns and looks toward fight.

ANGLE ON DEAD-PAN

He moves through crowd, causing havoc as he goes. He slaps one woman on the back, she turns and slaps the man behind her in the face, that man swings at the womans companion. There is a chain

reaction of pushing and shoving and tempers flaring and bursting into violence. Men are swinging at one another, women are slapping and kicking.

ANGLE ON GENERAL AND WIFE

They stand near serving table, shaking their fingers at one another as they argue. People are fighting all around them. The Riddler walks up behind Mrs. Royce as she lifts a picther of lemonade from the table. The Riddler adroitly unlatches her necklace and pulls it off her neck as she turns back to the General and pours the pitcher of lemonade over him.

CLOSE SHOT - BRUCE

As he spots the Riddler.

ANGLE ON RIDDLER

Still dead-pan, he moves through the crowd toward the door.

ANGLE ON BRUCE

He starts after him, is hindered by the fighting, brawling crowd. Even the Commissioner and Chief O'Hara are scuffling. Bruce is stymied, finally turns and pulls the pen microphone from pocket.

TIGHT ON BRUCE

As he talks into pen mike.

BRUCE
Robin!! Block the front entrance!! The Riddler is coming out!! Robin!! Robin??

EXT. BATMOBILE - NIGHT

The super machine is empty. But we can hear Bruce's voice over speaker.

BRUCE'S VOICE
Robin? Answer me Robin!! Robin!!!!

CLOSE SHOT - BRUCE

He looks very, very worried as he realizes Robin is missing.

FULL SHOT - THE ROOM

The riot is going full blast as we FREEZE FRAME and SUPER TITLES:

"IS THIS THE END OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN GOTHAM?"
"IS THIS THE END OF [illegible]?"
"IS THIS THE END OF THE DYNAMIC DUO?"
"NO" "THIS IS [illegible] OF PART ONE"

FADE OUT.

FULL SHOT - THE ROOM

The riot is going full blast as we FREEZE FRAMES and SUPER TITLES:

"IS THIS THE END OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN GOTHAM?"

"IS THIS THE END OF LEMONADE PARTIES?"

"WILL BATMAN FIND ROBIN?"

"WE'LL LEARN THE ANSWERS TOMORROW NIGHT, SAME TIME, SAME CHANNEL!!"

* * * * * * * * * * *

PART TWO

FADE IN

BRIEF REPRISE OF PART ONE

This is a series of FREEZE FRAME SHOTS from action of part one, each with a SUPERED TITLE.

(a) "A SILENT MOVIE....."	Shot of actual silent film up on screen.
(b) "COMES TO LIFE..."	Keystone Kops chasing Tramp among crowd in theater lobby.
(c) "FOR THE PURPOSE OF CRIME!"	The Riddler as Tramp gasing the Cashier with posie spray.
(d) "THE RIDDLER!!"	Close shot of Riddler wearing handlebar moustace.
(e) "ROLLING IN DOUGH!"	The Riddler in act of throwing a pie.
(f) "SPLAT!!"	A policeman getting pie in face.
(g) "BATMAN AND ROBIN"	The Batmobile stopping in the alley.
(h) "CAUGHT!!"	Batman and Robin reaching Bakery door.
(i) "BUT ONLY ON FILM"	The Riddler by his projection machine, Batman and Robin on his screen.
(j) "A CLUE!"	Bruce Wayne looking in book.
(k) "ANOTHER SILENT CHARACTER...."	The Riddler as Dead-Pan, holding tray of glasses.
(l) "a LEMONADE PARTY..."	Full shot of Party at beginning stages, all is quiet.
(m) "THAT TURNS SOUR!"	Same party in midst of riot.
(n) "WHILE ROBIN...."	Robin standing by girl as she looks into compact.
(o) "TAKES A POWDER!"	The girl blowing powder into Robins face.
(p) "AND NOW....."	

SLOW DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CITY BUILDING - DAY

SUPER: "THE NEXT MORNING - THE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE"

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Gordon is there, O'Hara and the Batman. Gordon is on the phone.

GORDON
Yes...yes, well, keep all units on the look-out!
(hangs up)
Batman, our dragnet hasn't turned up a single clue as to Robin's whereabouts!!

O'HARA
He seems to have vanished in thin air!

BATMAN
No luck from your police informers?

GORDON
No - The Riddler always keeps his hide-outs a dark secret!

O'HARA
That fiend! Look at last night - who could have guessed he'd spike that lemonade with temper tonic?

BATMAN
I should have guessed! I've been up against this wild schemer before!!

GORDON
Yes, and you've always defeated him! I'm confident you'll do it again!

BATMAN
Thanks, Chief.

The Telephone rings, Gordon answers it.

GORDON
Yes?

CLOSE SHOT - THE RIDDLER

He holds phone to ear, we can't see where he is. He laughs.

RIDDLER
Good day, Commissioner! I trust you and your friends are working hard?

INT. OFFICE - DAY - INTERCUT

GORDON
(to Batman)
It's the Riddler!!

Batman grabs the phone from Gordon.

BATMAN
This is Batman!

RIDDLER
Ah, yes - the cowled, cloddish crimefighter. Tell me, Batman - seen any good silent movies lately?

BATMAN
I'm warning you, Riddler - if you harm Robin I'll...

RIDDLER
Please, please - no threats today. Instead, I suggest you watch TV - you might get some news....ho-ho, hee-hee - remember, Batman - watch TV.

The Riddler hangs up.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Batman crosses to Television set in corner, turns it on.

BATMAN
For some reason, he wants us to watch the news on television...

They all stare as the TV warms up and a picture of a NEWSCASTER APPEARS.

NEWSCASTER
...and these films arrived by special delivery at our studio.

GORDON
(into phone)
Yes?....yes. Yes, of course, thank you.
(hangs up)
That was the television station. They called to say we might be interested in their present newscast.

O'HARA
I'll get it.

O'Hara turns on television set in corner of room.

CLOSE ON SET

As it warms up and picture of NEWSCASTER appears.

NEWSCASTER
...and so the Senator left the building with a snappy "no comment" to newsmen. However, his office did say he would release a statement later in the day. And now on the local scene... this station has recieved some very unusual film from an annonymous source and we shall run that film right now. It was photographed at a much slower speed than our modern projection equiptment operates, so it appears jerky and fast, much like a silent movie, so bear with us...

ON SCREEN APPEARS THE PARTY SCENE, with the guests moving as in a silent movie.

NEWSCASTERS VOICE
The reception last night honoring General Royce was crowded with the cream of Gotham Society. Also present were high City Officials.

On screen we can see the Mayor, Gordon and O'Hara.

NEWSCASTER'S VOICE
Now get this, folks - only lemonade was served at this party. The General dislikes serving hard drinks, since he claims such parties always turn into brawls. So what happened last night?

THE PICTURE ON SCREEN CUTS TO SHOTS OF THE RIOT.

NEWSCASTER'S VOICE
There you see it. A pier six brawl on the sixth floor of Gothams most exclusive Hotel. It's hard to believe, but these films speak for themselves.

REACTION SHOTS

Batman, O'Hara and Gordon watching glumly. [redacted].

ANGLE ON TELEVISION SCREEN

The riot continues.

NEWSCASTER'S VOICE
So this is how the upper crust throw a party. Hmmmmm. Better watch that lemonade, folks.

The Newscaster appears again on screen.

NEWSCOASTER
And now, before I sign off, I have a special message for the Batman!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Batman reacts, moves closer to the set.

NEWSCASTER
Along with this film came a request to read this message over the air. So, here goes.... "WHY IS A BEAR LIKE A FALLEN TREE?" and... "HOW DO YOU MEASURE GRASS?"

CUT TO:

INT. WOODSHED - DAY - CLOSE ON SCREEN OF SMALL PORTABLE TV

NEWSCASTER
I'll repeat that again.

CAMERA PULLS BACK FROM SET and we see the Riddler and his gang standing around TV set. Robin is bound and gagged to a chair. The Riddler giggles as the Newscaster repeats.

NEWSCASTER
Why is a bear like a fallen tree? And How do you measure grass???

The Riddler laughs, then snaps off the set. He turns to Robin.

RIDDLER
Ha-ha, ho-ho - I hope the Batman isn't slow.

Robin strains to speak. The Riddler removes his gag.

RIDDLER
You were saying?

ROBIN
You're a fool, Riddler!

RIDDLER
Thank you. But I must confess I work ~~hard~~ at it.

ROBIN
Batman will figure out those riddles in no time.

RIDDLER
In no time, eh?

ROBIN
Of course! A bear lumbers, and a fallen tree becomes lumber. And how do you measure grass? By the yard! And that's where you're holding me! Here at the lumber yard!!

RIDDLER
Right you are! And now we must prepare for our visitor!
(to men)
Bring him along!

Two of the gang lift robin to his feet, they follow the Riddler out side.

EXT. LUMBER YARD - DAY-TRACKING SHOT

The Riddler walks alongside Robin as they cross the yard, past piles of lumber.

RIDDLER
It's a pity the yard is closed today, Robin. I'm sure the workmen would enjoy seeing a master woodsman like myself in action.

A Master? ROBIN
Is that why you're running away? Before Batman gets here?

RIDDLER
Running away? Don't be silly. We're simply moving to a more appropriate section of the yard.
(he stops)
Tell me, Robin - Why is a barber like a nagging wife?

ROBIN
(frowns)
Because they both split hairs?

RIDDLER
Exactly. And speaking of hair splitting -
(points)
Behold!

Robin looks.

POV SHOT - HUGE BUZZ SAW

The Buzz saw is under an open shed in corner of the yard.

CLOSE SHOT - ROBIN

He stares, wide-eyed as his mind calculates the Riddlers scheme.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Riddler is smiling at Robin.

RIDDLER
How would you like your sideburns - long or short?

ROBIN
Batman will get you for this, Riddler.

RIDDLER
But will he get you? I believe you said he'd be here in no time. But question: is no time - in time?

The Riddler laughs loudly as Robin looks again at Buzz Saw.

POV SHOT - THE SAW

One of gang (girl?) turns on the machinery, the conveyor belt starts moving and the huge saw begins spinning.

TIGHT HEAD SHOT - ROBIN

Staring.

CLOSE SHOT - THE SAW

Spinning faster and faster and faster.

[redacted].

~~FADE IN~~:

EXT. GOTMAM CITY STREET - DAY

The Batmobile streaks along at a break-neck speed.

INT. BATMOBILE - DAY

Batman is at the controls, his jaw set in grim determination.

CUT TO:

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - DAY

The Chief is pacing, looks at watch.

O'HARA
He should almost be there. I still think we should send some police to assist.

GORDON
No. Batman's afraid the Riddler might spot Policemen and harm Robin.
(grim)
That is - if he hasn't already!

CUT TO:

EXT. LUMBER YARD - DAY

The Batmobile glides silently to a stop outside the high wall surrounding the yard. Batman gets out, walks to a side door and slips inside quietly.

EXT. INSIDE FENCED YARD - DAY

Batman walks softly, but quickly, through a path between large stacks of lumber. Then, as he starts to come to a clearing in the yard, we HEAR:

RIDDLER'S VOICE
(laughs)
Ho-ho, he-he - what kind of termite do I see!!

The Batman looks up.

UP ANGLE TOWARD STACK OF LUMBER

The Riddler is dressed in a black suit, with a black cape and a black stove-pipe hat. He is twirling a long black moustace. He stands on the high stack of lumber, looking down at Batman.

RIDDLER
You may hiss the villian now!!

ANOTHER ANGLE

BATMAN
I'll do better than that!!

Batman leaps on one pile of lumber, then to a higher pile and up to one edge of the large stack - the Riddler is on the other edge.

RIDDLER
First a riddle: When is a man a stupid relative?

BATMAN
I've had enough of your riddles!!!

The Batman leaps toward the Riddler, who leaps to another stack. The Batman pursues the black caped villian, catches him at end of second stack, wheels him around, holding onto his arm tightly.

BATMAN
I've got you!!

RIDDLER
That you have! And I hope we'll be very happy! The four of us!!

BATMAN
Eh?

RIDDLER
You - me - and Robin in two parts!!
(nods O.s.)
See for yourself!

Batman looks.

POV SHOT - THE BUZZ SAW

We can see the figure of Robin, strapped to the conveyor belt, as his head moves closer and closer to the blade of the buzz saw - only a few inches away!!

ANGLE ON BATMAN AND RIDDLER

The Riddler throws back his head and laughs.

RIDDLER
You're too late, Batman! Too late!!!

The Batman throws the mirthful crook aside and leaps off the stack of lumber in a rush.

CLOSE SHOT - THE SAW

Only one inch now from the shock of hair approaching it.

TRACKING SHOT - BATMAN

He races at top speed toward the Buzz Saw.

TIGHT SHOT

The Saw blade and hair.

CLOSE ON BATMAN

As he leaps through air to grab the huge lever that controls the machine! But at that instant:

ANGLE ON BUZZ SAW AND ROBIN FIGURE

Too late! The Saw begins cutting!! SUPERIMPOSE: "ZZZZZWWWWAAAAAPPPPP!!"

CLOSE HEAD SHOT - THE BATMAN

Staring in horror!! SUPERIMPOSE: "YE GODS!!"

ANGLE ON BUZZ SAW

The blade in neating sawing a wooden likeness of Robin in half, spraying saw dust as it cuts. SUPER: "WHAT'S THIS??"

CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN

Staring, STILL SHOCKED. ~~xxxxx~~SUPER: "A WOODEN DUMMY!!"

ANOTHER ANGLE

Batman steps forward and picks up one half of the dummy.
SUPER: "THANK HEAVENS!"

CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN

BATMAN
When is a man a stupid relative?
(sighs, relieved)
When he's a man-a-kin - a dummy!!

Batman shakes his head in relief, then notices a note pinned to vest of dummy. He unpins note, reads it.

BATMAN
More riddles!!

FLIP SCREEN TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

The Riddler stands by desk, dialing telephone.

RIDDLER
Hello, there, my patron! I just phoned to say you'll be delighted with our latest film!

INT. VAN JONES LIBRARY - DAY

Van Jones is holding the phone to ear.

VAN JONES
Wonderful, wonderful! When do I get to see it?

INTERCUT

RIDDLER
Well, I have one more sequence to film this afternoon - perhaps this evening/?

VAN JONES
Don't disappoint me, Riddler! I'm paying you a fortune for this special, silent film! Make sure I have it by tonight!!

RIDDLER
(laughs)
Mr. Van Jones, fear no mo..you'll have your films..and I'll have my dough!!

The Riddler laughs, then hangs up. He walks across room, then enters warehouse proper, where Robin is bound and gagged in a chair.

RIDDLER
Well, Boy Wonder - by now Batman should have my ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ latest riddles!

The Riddler turns to the girl.

RIDDLER
Come, my dear, to the make-up room - we have to get ready for our next production.

GIRL
(flat)
Swell. Only this time can I look like someone other than Little Bo-Peep?

RIDDLER
(laughs)
Of course, of course - you can be a regular vamp.

They walk into side room as we:

FLIP SCREEN TO:

CLOSE SHOT - BATMAN

BATMAN
When is a man a stupid relative?
(sighs, relieved)
When he's a man-a-kin - a dummy.

Batman shakes his head in relief, then notices a note pinned to the vest of the dummy. He unpins note, opens it and reads.

BATMAN
More riddles!

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The Batmobile is speeding back into Gotham.

INT. BATMOBILE - DAY

As Batman drives, he is speaking into Batphone.

BATMAN
Those were the riddles, Commissioner.

INT. COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE - DAY (INTERCUT)

Gordon is holding the phone to his ear.

GORDON
I'm not very good at these things, Batman. Why was Flo Ziegfield like a near sighted man?

BATMAN
Because they both put on spectacles!

GORDON
But what's it mean?

BATMAN
There was a silent movie star famous for wearing spectacles! And in many of his pictures he was balanced on the ledge of tall buildings.

GORDON
And the other riddle? What kind of men are always above board?

BATMAN
Chess men! And that's where I'm headed, Commissioner! To the Chessman Building!!

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

As the Batmobile speeds on.

CUT TO:

INT. TOP FLOOR OF BUILDING - DAY- ANGLE ON ELEVATOR

The light indicator above elevator shows the elevator coming up to the twentieth floor. The elevator doors open and out steps the Riddler p dressed to look like Harold Lloyd, carrying a cane. On his arm is the Girl - dressed as a vamp, Theda Bara. They make a most xxxxxxxxxx unlikely looking couple as they walk down the hall and enter a door maked: XXXXXXXXXX"CUSTOM MADE JEWELRY".

INT. JEWELRY SHOW ROOM - DAY

The Riddler and the Vamp come in. A meek-looking CLERK approaches them.

CLERK
And what can xxx I do for you?

The Vamp looks sultry and vampish as she huskily answers:

GIRL
SHow me...

CLERK
Uh..show you what?

GIRL
Things...pretty things...

CLERK
Well...

The clerk opens case xx and begins showing the Vamp stones as the Riddler wanders around the showroom. He sees a small case of jewels on a shelf, adroitly hooks case with his cane and pulls the jewels to him. He does this again - but this time the Clerk sees him.

CLERK
What the...you..stop that! Stop!!

The clerk rushes for the Riddler, the Vamp turns and exits by the door. The Riddler trips clerk with his cane, then turns and rushes

to window, opens it and steps outside.

EXT. SIDE OF BUILDING - DAY

The Riddler walks along the ledge, starts to fall, uses cane to hook sill and pull himself back upright. Then he turns the corner of the building.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Riddler moves toward fire escape ladder, which leads to roof. There is a flag pole protruding from building. Suddenly a rope swings up and a Bathook catches onto the flag pole.

REACTION SHOT - RIDDLER

His eyes widen.

ANGLE TOWARD POLE

Batman expertly climbs the rope and flips up onto the ledge.

ANOTHER ANGLE

RIDDLER
Batman! You wouldn't hit a man with glasses, would you?

BATMAN
Only when they're fake - like you are, Riddler!!

RIDDLER
Before you do, a question: Can ~~xiixRobinxxx~~ ~~xiyix~~ a Robin fly when his wings are clipped?
(points)
Look up!!

Batman looks toward roof.

ANGLE UP TO EDGE OF ROOF

Robin, his arms bound tightly to his side, is being held at edge of roof, Riddler's men on either side of him. Robin is struggling.

ANGLE ON BATMAN AND RIDDLER

RIDDLER
And this is no dummy, my friend!
(shouts)
Push him off!!!

ANGLE ON ROOF

The hoodlums shove the Boy Wonder off the roof.

ANGLE ON BATMAN

He must turn away from the Riddler, grab hold of the fire escape with one arm, reach out the other arm and catch the falling Robin.

ANGLE ON RIDDLER

As he scurries up the fire escape to the roof.

ANGLE ON BATMAN AND ROBIN

BATMAN lifts Robin onto the ledge and safety. Then he unties him and removes the gag.

ROBIN
Whew! Thanks, Batman!!

THE SOUND OF A WHIRRING MOTOR IS HEARD. They both look up.

STOCK SHOT

A helicoptor is pulling up and away.

ANGLE ON BATMAN AND ROBIN

ROBIN
The Riddler - he's getting away!!

BATMAN
We'll handle him later! Right now you're back and you're safe! That's the important thing!!

FLIP SCREEN TO:

[redacted]:

INT. WAYNE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dick is gulping down his meal, Bruce sits at the head of the table, Alfred is serving. Bruce notices the empty place.

BRUCE
Isn't Mrs. Cooper coming down to dinner, Alfred?

ALFRED
I'm afraid not, sir. She's in her room. Pouting.

BRUCE
Pouting?

ALFRED
Yes, sir. You see, when she came home late last night, she didn't notice that Master Dick was not in his room - but she did notice that he hadn't eaten a single bite of the cake she had baked for him.

DICK
Oh, poor Aunt Harriet. Her feelings must be hurt.

ALFRED
Well, she is most sensative - especially about her cake.

DICK
I'd better go up and make peace.

He stands, [redacted]crosses to door.

DICK
Be right back.

Dick exits.

ALFRED
He's such a thoughtful lad.

BRUCE
Yes. And it's certainly good to have him back, isn't it, Alfred?

ALFRED
My prayers were answered, sir. Thanks to your sterling performance.

BRUCE
Well, I fear my performance has yet to match that of the Riddler! If I could just figure out his ultimate aim.

ALFRED
I beg your pardon, sir?

BRUCE
All these silent movie routines - they're leading up to a final caper - I'm sure of that - the Riddler always has one goal before he starts a series of crimes. And I know it has something to do with silent movies - but what??

CUT TO:

INT. AUNT HARRIET'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Aunt Harriet sits on chaise lounge in front of fire, holding a handkerchief to her face, dabbing at her eyes. There is a gentle rap at the door and then Dick enters.

DICK
(cheerful)
Hi, Aunt Harriet!

AUNT HARRIET
(sniffs)
Hello.

DICK
Hey! Why so sad? I'm very happy tonight!

AUNT HARRIET
So I see. Never mind. You wouldn't understand.

DICK
Don't you want to know why I'm so happy?

AUNT HARRIET
Of course. Your happiness is my only concern.

DICK
Well, tonight's the night!

AUNT HARRIET
Tonight's what night?

DICK
The night I get to eat some of that beautiful chocolate cake!!

AUNT HARRIET
Tonight?

DICK
Of course!

AUNT HARRIET
But..but why didn't you have any last night?

DICK
And break my word? Never.

AUNT HARRIET
Your word?

DICK
Sure. You said I could have a piece if I went to bed on time, and...well...I sort of got tied up and forgot the time.

AUNT HARRIET
(brightens)
You mean you didn't eat the cake because of that?

DICK
That's why.

AUNT HARRIET
And you're happy about having some tonight?

DICK
Happy? I'm delighted!!

Aunt Harriet stands up, beaming.

AUNT HARRIET
Oh, you dear, boy - so am I.

She walks with him toward door.

CUT TO:

INT. BRUCE'S STUDY - NIGHT

Bruce is talking on the Bat Phone.

BRUCE
Yes, Commissioner!

INT. GORDON'S OFFICE - NIGHT - INTERCUT

Gordon is at his desk, talking into phone. O'Hara stands beside him.

GORDON
The Riddles just arrived by special delivery, Batman. And these are simple ones - even O'Hara and I could figure them out easily. What kind of machine has ears? A train - it has engineers.

BRUCE
Go on.

GORDON
O'Hara signals for phone, delighted.

O'HARA
My turn.
(takes phone)
Why does a cowboy wear a tight belt? To hold his pants up!!

Gordon takes the phone.

GORDON
You see, Batman? A train - and hold-up - the Riddler plans to hold-up a train!!

BRUCE
Perhaps.But you said there was a third riddle?

GORDON
It's not important. There's no doubt the Riddler plans to rob a train.

BRUCE
Commissioner, the third riddle, please.

GORDON
(reads)
Why is the Hall of Fame like a fireplace?

BRUCE
And your solution?

GORDON
Well..we haven't quite figured that one out.
(quickly)
But Hall of Fame - famous people - a lot of famous people take the El Chief - and that's the train we think the RiddleRplans to rob. It leaves Gotham in an hour. I'm sending a hundred men down there to guard it. Thought you might want to be in on the capture.

BRUCE
Thanks, Commissioner - you might be right, but - well, with all those men there you won't need me.

GORDON
All right, Batman - we'll handle it.

BRUCE
Thanks for calling.

Bruce hangs up the phone slowly, thoughtfully. Then the door opens and Dick and Aunt Harriet enter, arm in arm.

DICK
Here she is, the champion baker..

BRUCE
Hi, Aunt Harriet. Headache gone away?

AUNT HARRIET
Oh, I feel much better. Now you boys stay here - and I'll get you each a piece of cake.

BRUCE
Fine, fine. Only we'll have to eat it quickly. Remember, Dick? I promised to drive you to the library.

DICK
Oh? Oh, yes, yes...

AUNT HARRIET
I'll just be a minute.

She exits. Dick looks serious.

BRUCE
Quick - riddle me this: Why is the Hall of Fame like a Fireplace?

DICK
(thinking)
Hall of fame...fireplace...hall of fame..
full of famous, great people...that's it.
Because they both have grates!

Bruce walks to bookshelf, takes down Pictoral History of Movies.

BRUCE
Of course. Train...hold up...Great...
"The Great Train Hold-Up" It was the first
silent western movie ever made. Here it is...
(reads)
"This picture was an immediate success and it ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ set the pattern for years to come.
Unfortunately, most of the prints of this picture
have been lost or destroyed - and the only known
existing print is in the private collection of
K.C. Van Jones. It is valued at ten times the
cost of the original picture or well over a
million dollars!"

DICK
Van Jones. He's the man WHO HELPED THE SILENT ~~we met at the silent~~
film festival.

BRUCE
Yes, he collects nothing but rare films. And unless
I miss my guess, this one film is what the Riddler
is after!

DICK
My guess is your guess is right. What now?

BRUCE
Well, first we'll eat Aunt Harriet's cake -
then let's go and see if we can't make the
Riddler eat some crow!!!

FLIP SCREEN TO:

EXT. VAN JONES MANSION - NIGHT

The Batmobile drives up to the large, iron gates of the mansion and stops.

INT. BATMOBILE -NIGHT

Batman and Robin are inside. Robin looks toward the house.

ROBIN
There doesn't seem to be any lights
on in the house.

INT. VAN JONES STUDY - NIGHT

The Riddler is wearinga checkered cowboy shirt, vest and chaps. He enters the study, carrying a can of film under his arm. Van Jones greets him warmly. Riddler also carries a briefcase.

VAN JONES
Riddler! At last!!

RIDDLER
I have it here, Mr. Van Jones. My silent masterpiece!!

Van Jones takes the film from him, carries it to a projection machine and hastily puts it on reel.

VAN JONES
I can hardly wait!!

Van Jones pushes a button and a large screen comes down from the ceiling.

RIDDLER
I don't think you'll be disappointed, Van Jones.

VAN JONES
Sit down, sit down - we'll begin.

The Riddler sits in chair as Van Jones turns on the projector and snaps off the lights.

ON SCREEN

We will see the Tramp in theater lobby, being chased by Keystone Kops.

CLOSE ON VAN JONES

Smiling.

ON SCREEN - THE PIE THROWING BIT

CLOSE ON RIDDLER

Laughing.

INTERCUT: VAN JONES AND RIDDLER LAUGHING WITH EXCERPTS FROM CAPERS, FOR MONTAGE EFFECT. THEN:

INT. VAN JONES STUDY - NIGHT

Van Jones and the Riddler are now watching Batman and the Riddler on the ledge. Robin falls, Batman swings on pole and catches him.

VAN JONES
A brilliant shot! Brilliant!!

RIDDLER
Thank you, sir.

Van Jones snaps on the lights and stands up.

VAN JONES
Riddler - these are the finest silent movies made in the past twenty-five years!!

RIDDLER
Well, I seem to be the only one in the business these days.

VAN JONES
True, true - my only love is silent films - and you can't buy them anymore. Oh, I've tried hiring actors and making them myself, but that's not collecting - that's producing.

He starts to re-wind the film.

RIDDLER
I was only too glad to fill your order, Mr. Van Jones! You have the only original silent movies ever made of Batman and Robin in action.

VAN JONES
And you've earned your money, Riddler - you've earned it well. Here's a check for our agreed price - a hundred thousand.

He hands the Riddler the check. The Riddler lifts a brief case and opens it, as if to put the check away, as Van Jones picks up the reel of film.

RIDDLER
That's very expensive film. I do hope you'll take good care of it.

Van Jones crosses to wall, moves picture back and begins opening safe.

VAN JONES
Of course, of course...I keep all my rare films in this safe.

RIDDLER
Indeed.

ANGLE ON VAN JONES

As he unlocks safe, his back to the Riddler.

CLOSE ON RIDDLER

As he takes a cowboy hat from briefcase, puts it on, then ties a bandana around his nose and mouth and then takes a six-gun from the case.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Van Jones swings the safe open, the Riddler laughs.

RIDDLER
Why are you like a clock at midnight, Van Jones?

Van Jones turns.

VAN JONES
Eh?

RIDDLER
(smiles)
Because I want both your hands straight up - right now!!

Van Jones raises his hands.

VAN JONES
~~RIDDLER~~
What is this?

RIDDLER
As the fisherman said about to land the fish - "this is the last reel". Step aside.

Van Jones moves away as Riddler takes brief case to safe and fills it with cans of film.

VAN JONES
My films!! You can't take them! They're priceless!!

RIDDLER
Oh, I'm certain you'll think of a high price - when you try to ransom them back!!

VAN JONES
I won't let you take them!!

RIDDLER
No? How can you fight my wild and wooley gang!! In here, pardners!!

The Girl and the gang, all is western garb, enter from the patio through French Window.

RIDDLER
Now, relax, Van Jones - and don't expect a posse to save you!!

The lights suddenly go out.

GIRL
The lights!

RIDDLER
Who turned off the lights?

Suddenly the projection machine is turned on.

ANGLE ON SCREEN

The huge shadow of the Batman is silouetted against the screen.

RIDDLER
Batman!!

ANOTHER ANGLE

~~The Girl finds light switch and turns on lights~~ as Batman and Robin wade into the gang.

VARIED ANGLES

Of the fight, with supered titles of:"SWAPP" "BANG" "BOOM" ETC. The fight will all take place in the flickering light of the projector. We will see Riddler run in front of screen, trying to get away, then Batman catches him and they disappear into darkness as the fight continues. Finally:

ANGLE ON ROBIN

At lightswitch. He snaps on the lights. He holds the Girl by arm.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Riddler and his gang are all unconscious on the floor. Batman stands looking down at them as Van Jones rushes up.

VAN JONES
Thank you, Batman - thank you so much.

BATMAN
You were a fool, Van Jones - to do business with the Riddler. In the end, he tried to cheat you, too.

VAN JONES
I've learned my lesson. From now on I'll just watch T.V. - with the sound turned off, of course.

Batman answers him, but without sound. Van Jones nods and mouths again his apologies, without sound. The Girl argues with Robin, with out sound AS OUR CAMERA PULLS BACK.

SUPERIMPOSE: "TV WITHOUT SOUND?"

"SILENT COMMERCIALS?"

"THIS MAN COULD BE A GREATER MENACE THAN THE RIDDLER!!"

"IGNORE HIM! AND JOIN US NOISILY AGAIN NEXT WEEK!!"

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